

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
INOUE et al. )  
Application Number: To be Assigned )  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
For: DISK ARRAY DEVICE AND MAINTENANCE )  
METHOD FOR DISK ARRAY DEVICE )  
Atty Docket No. WILL.0005 )

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above identified application  
as follows: